

28 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to explain the options process your son/daughter will be starting soon to select their courses for GCSE. The GCSEs start in September of Year 9 at Graham School and will be studied for 3 years. Over the next term, the students and yourselves, will be given lots of information around the choices they have moving forward. Usually we would have lots of events in school to support this, but in the current situation this is being amended but will still be going ahead.

Recently, you will have received the students' latest reports and for many this will still be the starting point for the process. Please support your child in looking at the grades they are projected to achieve at the end of Year 11 and factoring these into the subjects they consider for their options.

We will be sending the students their options booklets and forms in the post, at the end of February, detailing all the courses available to them, so they can start to understand the process and the courses on offer. There will then be an **Assembly for all Year 8 students** on the **2 March at 8.40am** via Google Meet. We strongly recommend all Year 8 students attend this assembly to hear more about how the process will work.

Our **Virtual Options Evening will be on Thursday 4 March**. You will be sent a link to view videos on the process at a time convenient to you. Parents and students will be able to listen to us explain the finer details of the process in a presentation. There will also be the opportunity to view videos of all subject areas to allow you to learn more about the courses from the teachers. After the event there will be opportunities for both parents and students to contact us with any queries they may have.

We hope to be able to offer the students a taster day when they return to school, during which they will be able to try out some new subjects for themselves. At the time of writing this letter, we do not have any clear idea of when the return to school will be though, so we will be in touch with more details when this becomes clearer. These taster lessons will enhance their understanding of these courses and support them in choosing their options.

Finally, the subject **Parents Evening for Year 8 is planned for the 11 March**, this will also be a remote event. Detailed information from your child's teachers will be sent to you

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around this date and then there will then be an additional opportunity to discuss subject choices with teachers.

The option forms will then need to be **returned to school by the 26 March**. This can be done through email, post or hand delivery, if restrictions allow. After this date we will be interviewing the students to discuss their choices and some amendments may be necessary at this point in the process. We will always endeavour to meet the student preferences but this is not always possible due to courses either not recruiting, being over-subscribed or not being suitable.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch

Yours faithfully

Mr A Moore

Mrs K Shires
Assistant Vice Principal, Curriculum

Mr A Moore
Head of Year 8